



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20463

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission

FROM: Kathleen Guith *KG*  
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Assistant General Counsel

Kamau Philbert *KP*  
Attorney

SUBJECT: MUR 6658 (Unknown Respondents)

RE: Notification of New Respondents

On June 16, 2015, the Commission found reason to believe that Unknown Respondents violated 52 U.S.C. § 30120(a) and 11 C.F.R. § 110.11 by failing to include a disclaimer on yard signs that expressly advocated the defeat of President Obama with the statement "STOP the WAR on COAL – FIRE OBAMA," and violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)(4)(H)(iii), or (c)(1) and (g), and 11 C.F.R. § 109.10 by failing to report independent expenditures made in connection with the signs.<sup>1</sup> The Commission also authorized the use of compulsory process, if needed, to investigate the identity of the unknown respondents.<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

The investigation to date has revealed that at least four entities purchased these signs from the vendor who printed them. Specifically, the printing vendor stated that PBS Coals purchased \$5,850 in signs, Oxford Mining Company, LLC purchased \$5,673.89, Mepco, LLC purchased \$3,525, and Oxford Mining Kentucky purchased \$712.02. Consistent with previous Commission practice in complaint-generated matters involving initially unknown respondents, *see, e.g.*, MURs 6838 and 6642, we intend to notify these four entities and offer them an opportunity to respond to the allegations.

<sup>1</sup> See Certification, MUR 6658 (Unknown Respondents) (June 16, 2015).

<sup>2</sup> At the time of the reason to believe findings, the Commission was aware that Murray Energy Corporation had purchased and distributed some of these signs. Murray Energy Corporation's liability in connection with its purchase of the signs was resolved with a signed settlement agreement in a separate matter under review. See Certification, MUR 6659 (Murray Energy Corporation) (Sept. 10, 2015).